

Waste Reduction Task Force

Governments' Role-Work Group #3

Conference Call – January 16, 2008

Summary

Work Group Members Participating: Shawn Lindsey-Athens, Lee Norris – Chattanooga, Andy Ashford-Memphis, Mimi Keisling-Rutherford County, Bryon Fortner-Sevierville.

Facilitator: Wayne Brashear, TDEC

The conference call lasted 90 minutes.

TOPICS

1. Solid Waste Planning Board Meetings

SUGGESTIONS: Utilizing time wisely and addressing pertinent solid waste issues is critical to the Board's effectiveness; therefore the committee felt certain meeting requirements should be mandatory for the boards.

- Minimum of 2 meetings per year (preferably 3 or more) each region would set and report in annual report.
- Must have a quorum to qualify as an official meeting
- Board must establish attendance rules (to avoid lack of participation)
- Require certain Board meeting agenda items:

Requirement - Present status of waste reduction activities in region by municipality.

Requirement – Ask if there are any new haulers in region.

Requirement - Receive reports from the Technical Committee, which will be explained later.

(Additional related suggestion not discussed in the conference call from Andy Ashford - Perhaps require Boards to provide documentation of board meetings (agendas and minutes) with the Annual Progress Reports)

2. Solid Waste Planning Board Composition

SUGGESTIONS:

- Recommend no change to board membership makeup (appointments).

- Set up minimum of one Technical Committee per region. Multi-county regions may have more than one or one per county.
- Board would invite knowledgeable solid waste management people/professionals to be members of the technical committee for a period to be determined by the Board.
- Board would develop simple or basic guidelines for the committee to follow so that the committee can provide the appropriate information at Board meetings. (Example: Advice regarding waste reduction opportunities, outlets, companies, technology that may exist within or outside the region, which may assist the board address waste reduction. Also the committee would meet as needed or no less than the number of Board meetings per year. That way there would be something to report at all board meetings.)
- Board members may also be on the Technical Committee (if they are technically knowledgeable about solid waste management)
- The Technical committee would make presentations to the Board at regularly scheduled Board meetings.
- The Board would not be bound by Technical Committee recommendations, as the committee is only to provide insight and information only.

3. Involving non-government waste generators in regional waste reduction

SUGGESTIONS:

- There are large, medium and small waste generators in all municipalities/counties. Start by opening open a dialog with generators. The first step is for the Board to identify the largest (individual) waste generators such as industry, chains, etc., within the municipality/region.
- The Board should solicit the assistance of waste haulers, recyclers, landfills to help identify who the largest waste generators are in the region. (Sources of generator identification would be confidential)
- The Board would then contact the largest waste generators in the region in writing. (Introduce and explain the board's purpose and objective and explain the large generator's role in the region's explain the waste reduction requirements of the region)
- The Board would invite representatives of the large generators to attend Solid Waste Board meetings with the intent of gaining the generators' understanding and/or "buy in" regarding the importance of waste reduction to the region.

4. The waste reduction goal is currently a regional goal. Should individual municipalities be required to achieve the goal?

SUGGESTIONS:

- Recommend requiring municipalities with a population of 4,000 and over to develop solid waste plan.
- 4,000 seems ideal since it would be the size of community where services and infrastructure may be more likely.
- Also, all counties within multi-county regions should be required to develop solid waste plans.

- Best management practices

- Since many of Tennessee's municipalities/counties/regions do not have the ability to meet the current waste reduction goal of 25%, they should not be penalized or simply left unaccountable (or "off the hook"). A different set of rules or criteria should be developed for this group to follow which is not purely related to the 25%. Example: Have a list of approx. 10 goals related to solid waste management. Such goals would include, but not limited to such things as, minimum requirements for solid waste reduction initiatives, waste reduction education, reporting and even meeting requirements.
- Since the TDEC Solid Waste Management staff would have better feel for what is going on statewide and would have the necessary insight, we suggest that TDEC staff develop suggestions for best management practices and present to the Task Force for discussion.

5. Revising multi-county regions. (Presented as a Parking Lot matter in the meeting, but we need to make it one of our topics)

SUGGESTIONS:

- Existing multi-county regions should remain intact; however, consideration should be given to separating those multi-county regions which have not met the current 25% waste reduction goals into individual regions.
- Require all member counties within multi-county regions to prepare county solid waste plans.

The group did not address the other (Construction and Demolition) issues/questions from the Task Force due to time. It was agreed to review and to be prepared to discuss in the general Task Force meeting.